

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, according to press reports, the President has invoked executive privilege to avoid explaining some of his actions in the White House. And for the record, neither George Bush nor Ronald Reagan ever invoked executive privilege during their tenure in the White House.

If the President is allowed to use executive privilege regarding current events, I can only wonder what other ways would he use executive privilege. Would he cite executive privilege to avoid explaining his plans to spend the surplus? When people ask him his real thoughts about cutting taxes, will he simply say executive privilege? And when it comes to his opposition to education savings accounts, the President could cite executive privilege. It is better than admitting he is a pawn of the teachers' unions.

Mr. Speaker I urge the President to rethink his use of executive privilege. It sets a terrible precedent.

DEMOCRATS OFFER REAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has scheduled a sham campaign finance reform bill for consideration this week. The Republican bill would not achieve reform even if it passed. But the Republicans have included a poison pill, an antilabor provision, just to make sure that the bill does not pass.

The GOP campaign finance charade would allow wealthy individuals to contribute more money. It would make it more difficult for workers to organize and for the National Labor Relations Board to stop employers from violating labor laws.

Democrats, on the other hand, will offer a substitute bill, essentially the McCain-Feingold legislation that includes real reform, including a ban on soft money. Democrats offer real reform that gives average working families an equal voice in the political system and limits the influence of wealthy special interests in our political process.

REALLY PUT SOCIAL SECURITY FIRST

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the President for saying let us put Social Security first. I would like to compliment Senator MOYNIHAN for moving the solutions of this issue to the front burner. I would like to invite my col-

leagues to really put Social Security first by co-sponsoring a bill with me today.

The bill that I will be introducing accomplishes two major objectives. Number one, it provides that the money that we are borrowing from the Social Security trust fund this next year be marketable certificates. Instead of the nonmarketable IOUs, they would be marketable so we could, in effect, take it around the corner to the local bank anytime the Trust Fund needed that money for paying benefits.

The other provision takes some of the surplus money and allows younger workers on a ten year pilot to invest some of that surplus money in their own 401(k)—Thrift savings-type retirement accounts. That will help in the long term to keep Social Security solvent and let these workers accrue more wealth than they would have under the current system.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to look at this bill and consider co-sponsorship.

CONGRESS BETTER START DOING SOMETHING ABOUT JOBS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, every day the American people are told how great the economy is. I do not buy it. Let us check the scoreboard. In 1995 900,000 Americans filed for bankruptcy. In 1996 1,100,000 filed for bankruptcy. And last year 1,400,000-plus filed for bankruptcy. Total bustout "morgueville," belly up. A 20 percent increase in one year.

What is worse, our kids are moving to Mexico to find work. They cannot find it around here. Take Boeing, for example, please. They laid off 18,000 workers since December. What is next, Congress? Will we be told that El Nino is good for the economy?

Beam me up.

Mr. Speaker, I think Congress better start doing something about jobs in America.

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS' MOST DREADED DAY: APRIL 15

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the countdown is on. The tax clock is ticking. The nightmare of all nightmares to American workers: The tax man is coming.

That is right. Just 3 short weeks from today is the American taxpayers' most dreaded day: April 15. This day looms on the calendar each year as an ominous reminder of the crushing burden of the current Federal Tax Code. And while the IRS smiles behind closed doors, American workingmen and women are struggling to keep pace with an out-of-control Federal agency.

Over the next 21 days, taxpayers across this country will spend many sleepless nights and work countless hours in an attempt to figure out exactly how much of their hard-earned money must be sent to the government.

Heaven forbid the amount is off by a single cent, causing the taxpayer to face the unbridled wrath of the IRS.

Mr. Speaker, the time is now to enact comprehensive tax reform. Sweet dreams, Mr. and Mrs. America.

AN ACCURATE COUNT OF EVERY AMERICAN IS ESSENTIAL IN THE YEAR 2000 CENSUS

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as we prepare to take the census in the year 2000, I want to take just a moment and underscore the importance of this issue. I also want to commend and congratulate the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for her leadership in keeping this issue before the American people.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember that every person must count; therefore, every effort must be made to count each and every citizen. We must be able to avoid the massive undercounts that we experienced during the past 2 decades, especially among poor and minority population groups. Just as we have been able to count the huge crowds that have turned out to greet the President on his visit to Africa, we must be able to count each and every citizen of this country.

Sampling is the most effective way, the most cost-conscious way, and the most assured way that will let us make it happen.

□ 1015

TIME FOR VICE PRESIDENT TO COME CLEAN ABOUT FUND-RAISING EVENT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, it is time for a little quiz. What is the difference between a community outreach event and a fund-raiser? We really would like to know. But maybe the Vice President can help us. How about this one? What is the difference between a finance-related event and a fund-raiser? Or how about the difference between an event for donor maintenance and a fund-raiser?

It is a time for the Vice President to come clean about the legal event, whatever euphemism we want to use to describe it, that was held on April 29, 1996, in California. Maybe the Vice President can help us with the problem we are having trying to understand how an event organized by Maria Hsia, who is a fund-raiser, which raised \$55,000, is not a fund-raiser?